Forerunners In Bible History

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PREFACE

"For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."
Malachi 3:6

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."
Hebrews 13:8

In the above quoted scriptures is implied and BOLDLY STATED that even though we may think that the things recorded in the Old Testament are no longer applicable to Christians, who claim to be under the New Testament or Covenant, yet God declares that He changes not. This is as I have often said, 'the principles of the law are always the same'. The outward dramatization of the Laws of Life may vary (as do the seasons from year to year), but the spiritual truths embodied in those Laws of Life never change! This should be such an elementary concept, and one that all Christians should appreciate and fully accept. But, alas, that just isn't the case. You will hear many people say that you cannot apply the things of the Old Testament in understanding the things brought out in the New Testament, and so on. Some seem to be saying that Jesus, the God of the New Testament, cannot be compared to the 'God of the Old Testament'. It's as if God somehow changed and became more loving, that He 'grew up' or matured, or that He repented of the way He was back then! What colossal error!

God knew what He was doing when He enshrined His Laws of Life in the ordinances given through Moses and the prophets for the Israel nation. He knew that those people, and mankind as a whole,

were then much too ignorant to appreciate the full and unveiled truth and its spirit. So He gave them the husks, but based and founded squarely in the reality of the TRUTHS found throughout His universe. Such principles of life shall never change. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." In addition to that scripture, there are numerous other passages that reveal the same idea. God does not change. He has no need to 'grow up'. He is the great "I AM". To postulate that God had recorded for us 2/3 of our Bible just to give us historical data, and that He waited before coming as the "God of Love", etc., is just preposterous! God has had a plan from the beginning, and He has never lost sight of that plan - His Master Plan of Love for Man. Therefore, we can have implicit FAITH in Him and believe that He will always be the same - that which He has promised He will do!

This book, therefore, is dedicated to the purpose of creating more of an awareness on the part of the reader that God grants us "forerunners" to help later generations to view portions of His plan that are important for their age and for the instruction of His people. The lives of various Bible characters, the places they lived, the names of those people and places, their actions, deeds and children - all tell of future patterns by which God has declared to conform His plan for the ultimate redemption of many sons unto glory!

> "Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion."
>
> Isa. 8:18

> "I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets."
>
> Hosea 12:10

"The beginning of the word of the Lord by Hosea. And the Lord said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord."
Hosea 1:2

It is important, however, that the reader not conclude that we are indicating that the events recorded in the scriptural account were not real (or that it did not actually take place). Rather, it is our intent to show that the drama enacted through the lives and events of the people of the Bible were not limited in scope to just the time of the event taking place. Thus, the application of the event may be transferred to reveal portions of overall patterns of ETERNAL TRUTH.

We must ever bear in mind that the statement by our Lord while He was in flesh on earth - as in heaven, so on earth - reveals an important 'key' to understanding the so-called 'mysteries of God'. That which is on earth is in many ways but a weak reflection of truths in the heavenlies (at least the events as recorded in the Bible). First, we see the physical or material pattern, then we are enabled to view the heavenly or spiritual pattern of truth. Many such examples can be brought to mind, such as: Moses being commanded to make his tabernacle exactly after the one he was shown in the mount (Ex. 26:30); Isaac's being offered up by Abraham as a type or "forerunner" of the offering of Jesus on the Cross by His Father; the scripture which indicates that "as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up" (Jn. 3:14); and Paul's very clear statements about Sarah and Hagar being but types of the earthly and heavenly Jerusalems (Gal. 4:22 - 31). There are many more - as a matter of fact, that is what the Bible is all about - patterns of truths by which those with eyes to see and ears

to hear can comprehend. As I said, it is THE 'key' to understanding the Bible. Yet, so many Christians have been led to believe otherwise, and thus have failed to see the beautiful truth that God does not deviate from His revealed and declared patterns. Although there may be several applications to one scripture, He will never change the basic underlying meanings.

> "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."
>
> Matt. 24:35

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INTRODUCTION

The saying has come down to us from ancient times that "coming events cast their shadow before". And, I am also well persuaded that most of my readers also believe that the Lord foretells us through signs, of important developments. Because I believe that most, maybe all, of those who read this message are well aware how God has given signs unto multitudes in previous years, therefore I shall not take time to here repeat such. But, I will remind you of one of very recent times: the American shuttle Columbia has made 4 test flights, and is now preparing for future flights of a business and commercial nature.

Let me state, with all the emphasis possible, that the shuttle Columbia is perhaps the last great and staggering "sign" that the Lord will grant us previous to His calling out of the world the 144,000 Firstfruits. The name Columbia means 'a dove'. John the Baptist saw the Spirit of God in the form of a dove descending upon Jesus of Nazareth as He came up out of the water after having been baptized by the prophet. Also the deeper and more profound students of the Word are well aware that it is the Spirit of God, commonly referred to as the Holy Spirit (some use the 'ghost' word) which God has appointed to watch over, to select, and in the fullness of time take out of this world a people for the Lord's Name - even the elected 144,000.

As Jacob's hand was the "shadow" which declared that the replacer (Jacob) was destined by God to follow hard upon the heels of the law (Esau), so similarly did the Christ who declared that the law was only unto John the Baptist. Similarly

does the Canadian built 'arm' attached to the American built shuttle Columbia duplicate the symbolism of Jacob's hand holding the heel of Esau at the time of their birth. Neither should we forget that it was the replacer Jacob who received his father's blessing, even the birthright blessing, wherefore we must expect in confidence that the birthright blessing which is the lot of the Firstfruits shall soon become manifest. I believe that the foregoing could be enlarged upon throughout many columns. But I have a somewhat different matter in mind.

Although the shuttle Columbia is a man-made vehicle used to shuttle between the earth and the regions of space, yet it is under the control of astronauts on board. Therefore, I label it a "forerunner". That is what I have in mind to talk about: forerunners.

MIKKEL DAHL

Chapter I

CAIN AND ABEL

According to the Bible record, Cain was the first son to be born unto Adam and Eve after their expulsion from the Edenic Paradise. Shortly thereafter, his brother Abel came into this world. He became a cattleman, while his brother Cain looked to the produce of this earth for his sustenance. Although not thus stated, we are expected to realize that in the process of time Cain was not satisfied by plucking the occasional raspberry, or perhaps some grapes, but commenced to do some gardening. That meant work, even prodigious labor! His father Adam was still alive, unto whom the Lord had said "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread...." Wherefore, we cannot say that plucking a few raspberries, some grapes and maybe an apple (if indeed there were such things growing in that area at the time) constituted that prodigious labor which brought about the 'sweat of his face'. Even the very commencement of analytical thinking tells us that much.

Similarly I think we can safely assume that Cain had no motorized equipment, neither did he have as much as a plow, a disc or a harrow. Because the era of metal mining had not dawned, there were no machine shops, no, not even a blacksmith shop! So, it seems plausible to assume that Cain came across a dried out willow root or some similar root which, in part, formed a right-angeled hook. That enabled him, in primitive fashion, to cultivate the soil. But in view of the horrendous labor which it entailed, we may also safely assume that such plots of ground

which he cultivated were comparatively small - maybe half an acre, maybe less - wherein he planted whatsoever he could. His father Adam had lived a long, long time in the Edenic garden and was therefore well able to grant helpful suggestions unto his son Cain: suggestions which would lead to progressive measures in the process of time.

We are told that in the process of time Cain brought an offering unto the Lord. It may be that his father Adam had suggested that. Yet, it could also be that the Lord Himself had told him to do so, because we are clearly given to know that at the time of the offering, the Lord did speak to Cain. Yet the smoke of Cain's offering fell to the ground: it was not received by the Lord! At that point, Cain entered into the "forerunner" category of which we shall see more a little later on.

Cain's younger brother, Abel, went in for animals. Based on conditions we know today, I think we may assume that he had cattle and sheep, possibly some goats. We have beheld the great probability that Cain labored prodigiously in order to add to the variety and abundance of what he could eat and that which was necessary to just survive. But his younger brother discerned that in that semi-tropical climate and on that virgin soil, he did not need to build barns for his cattle, neither any hayloft to store food for the winter. Wherefore, Abel did not have the slightest form of labor to perform in order to live: the nearest approach to that was but some minor exertion required for him to take that milk which he might desire to drink and that flesh which he might desire to roast.

That we cannot say for Cain, for the simple reason that his parents had been driven out from the Garden of Eden wherein everything grew that was good to look upon and desireable for food. The fact of Cain's parents' expulsion from that garden meant that such were no longer available to Adam

and Eve, neither to their later progeny. So, if they wanted to eat, thrive and prosper, they would have to begin to work, and work hard. Yet Abel needed only to pat a "Bossie", to take her milk, and maybe to slaughter the "fatted calf".

Abel, too, brought an offering unto the Lord. We may safely assume that it was a lamb or maybe a young bullock. The smoke of that offering rose up being acceptable unto the Lord. That was a grief unto his elder brother Cain.

Now, in the process of time, we may logically assume that Cain's garden and/or field had enlarged in size, and that Abel's herd had increased. In keeping with the nature of range cattle, they would have roamed over considerable areas, thus coming across Cain's field and/or garden "one sunny day"! To Abel's small herd, that was a pleasant repast - just a nice dessert!! Since no record of that episode has been handed down to us, we do not know as to whether or not Cain was patient and remonstrated time and again with his younger brother, or if he became so enraged that at that very time he rose up and killed his brother Abel. But Abel was killed.

We have seen how Cain became a "forerunner" of the grain grower and the truck farmer, but now also the "forerunner" of the murderer! We might look upon Cain and to considerable extent possibly justify him for executing vengeance on him whose cattle had destroyed the fruits of his labors. And although the foregoing has not thus been recorded, yet as thinking, analytical human beings, we are expected to exercise sufficient rationality to realize that even 6,000 years ago a man would not rise up to kill his brother without some "good reason" for doing so, at least good reason to his own way of thinking.

Then, with his brother Abel dead, Cain was in a position to take possession of Abel's cattle. Then and there he also became the "forerunner" of the mixed farmers of today. We bear in mind that

a curse came upon Adam because of his disobedience, or, should we say, 'self will': a curse to the end that he and his progeny should eat the 'bread in the sweat of their brow'!

Now, carefully observe: because of that curse, God could not accept at the hand of Adam or Cain any offering which was the direct result of the curse!! So let us go back in review to Abel, his life and his offering. Because of Abel's offering unto the Lord, which was not the result of prodigious labor, it was not the result of his own efforts - it was an offering unto the Lord of that which the Lord had provided for him! It was received by God because it was not stained by the curse. Therein, Abel also became a "forerunner", but a "forerunner" of that which God could accept!

I know that some pulpiteers have waxed eloquent over that which they have labeled that stream of blood which flowed from Abel right up unto the Cross of Calvary! That I will not, nay, I cannot deny nor dispute. Blessed forever be that blood which flowed from Calvary's Cross! And having beheld that blessed blood, it is well that we rejoice therein. Yet, that does not justify our stopping there and closing our eyes and ears to everything else. There is considerably more involved, and as soon as we realize that the Lord does not have a one track mind, then we commence to pray for increased light. We start to dig deeper, we commence to look higher and strive to behold the truths which the gracious Lord has set before us. It is your privilege and mine to rejoice in that redeeming blood which flowed from Calvary's Cross, but did you ever stop to realize that in a very small measure it commenced previously, yes, even in the Garden of Gethsemane the previous night? And did you stop to realize that maybe an hour or more previous to Calvary's Cross that once more, in a very small measure, His blood commenced to flow from that horribly cruel crown of thorns which was forced down upon

the Lord's head?

"While men slept, his enemy man came and sowed tares" (Matt. 13:25). In the Garden of Gethsemane that previous night, all of the disciples slumbered and slept while the Precious Lord was agonizing at that rock where He had knelt to pray. Gethsemane was the place of the oil press (as its name implies): some blood had to be shed in order that there should be oil for the 'Spirit Candelabra' to light up - and that while the sleeping followers of the Christ slumbered and slept! I think we might surmise that the first time Jesus knelt and prayed in agony it was for His own people, the chosen people, whom He knew had rejected Him. And similarly, I believe we might surmise that the other two times He went to pray at that rock, He offered prayers for the Spirit-born church of Christ and for the two millenniums which would elapse before the Firstfruits would be born into the glory realm. At the close of that third prayer, He said to His disciples, "he that betrayeth me is at hand". If the foregoing assumption is correct, that His two last prayers were for the Gentiles out from whom were to be brought forth the Spirit-born church which was to become His Bride, then we must associate that event with the traitor Judas, who was also a "forerunner" of that "beast" in these latter days which is to rise up out of the earth with "two horns like a lamb" (Rev. 13:11). His prayers were finished and the traitor was at hand. The Firstfruits are to be called out of the Gentile nations, then, almost immediately, the prophesied satanic power will take over throughout 1260 days.

Then followed their leading away Jesus, which was followed by the mock trial (even a farsical trial) wherein both the prosecuting attorney and the judge knew very well that the Lord was guiltless. But because of envy and self-exaltation, He was condemned to death and delivered to the governor. A foreign power in the Holy Land re-

peatedly suggested acquittal and there was respite for a few brief moments. That foreign power in the Holy Land foreshadowed the British which were empowered to rule in Palestine, and which, in process of time, paved the way for the people of modern Israel to return to the land of their forefathers.

The Lord was delivered to the soldier servants of the governor who clad Him in a robe of purple, placed a reed in His hand for a sceptor, and mockingly bowed before Him. A crown was fashioned, but that of great thorns, and forced down upon His head. This drew blood! Through our head function all the senses.

The soldiers of the government in the days of Jesus symbolized the United Nations, and it was they who clothed the Lord in purple and mockingly bowed before Him. This foreshadowed the U.N. deliberations as to what Israel could or could not do, and which cut up that land which the Lord promised unto Abraham, and unto his seed through Isaac/Jacob! To atone - even for this - our Gracious Lord endured the crown of thorns and permitted His atoning blood to flow.

In view of these prophetic factors, we may rest assured that the emergence of 'the beast' is close to hand, while under his reign, compassion, mercy, truth and all righteousness (as symbolized by the Lord) shall be pushed to the side that darkness may enter. And so, the Lord agonizes for His people. . . .

Now, let us return to the story of Abel who became a "forerunner" of that offering which God could accept - even that perfection body which willingly shed forth that transformed blood to atone for the sins of willful man! Observe: Abel was dead! A measure of time elapsed, we do not know how much, until Seth was born - who was pronounced to be a replacement for Abel. The antedeluvians lived and died; some before the flood, the others, all of them, in the flood (except for

Noah and his household). You will observe that Cain and all of his seed perished to the last man, either before or in that great deluge. Only Noah and his household - as the seed of Seth, the replacer of Abel - survived to make a fresh start. Then, in process of time, came the Law - a law which decreed punishment for lawlessness and death for serious crimes! Yet forget not that the self-same 'law' (in the hands of God) was equally operative in the hands of the Lord previous to the Great Deluge. Cain and all his progeny perished! The law through Moses had its day unto John the Baptist and the Cross of Calvary, as was foreshown long beforehand by that distance in time between the murder of Abel, and his replacer, Seth.

From those ancient events, the lessons we must draw, as up to this moment, become: the prodigious labors of man, as an offering unto God, are not acceptable. Man is not accepted back into the Edenic garden because of his prodigious labors, even though those works might not be evil. God will only accept that which He previously provided for man's redemption: even that "Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world!" Ordinarily, this would tell us that all the prodigious labors by man in growing grain, vegetables, fruits and 'whatnots' are all under the curse because of Abel's blood. But no! Cain appropriated that which was acceptable unto God after Abel's death. Thus, there is a mixture: the unacceptable being the egotistic labors of man, while that which is acceptable unto God (be it either this or that) is that which is done for others in the recognition of Christ's sacrifice and in the spirit of His love!

Let us never forget this one outstanding fact: Cain and all his progeny perished either before or in the flood. He had no remaining progeny to ever come before the Lord through great labors by their own hands! But the offspring of Abel's replacer, Seth, rode out the storm of God's descending wrath (judgment) and lived to perpetuate offspring, which eventuated in the Son of God - whom God gave

for the redemption of humankind. Abel was the "forerunner" of the acceptable offering unto God, while Seth, the replacer of Abel, became the father of that generation which brought forth the chosen people and ultimately the Christ.

Chapter II

NOAH

Maybe 800 to 900 years after Abel and Seth, another "forerunner" was born whose name has come down to us as that of Noah. His name means 'rest', and at the age of 500 years (God's freedom setting power towards humankind), he begot 3 sons. Incidental to his faith and his faithfulness towards God, Noah became the "forerunner" of the Christ and the Christian faith. As Noah means 'rest', so did the Lord say with outstretched arms:

> "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
>
> Matt. 11:28 - 30

As Noah begot 3 sons, so similarly did the Lord say that the sower who went forth to sow the good seed was the Son of man. Some seed fell by the wayside and upon stoney ground, and among thorns, none of which brought forth lasting fruit, yet some seed fell into good ground and brought forth "some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty" (Matt. 13:3 - 23). Therein we see the comparisons between Jesus Christ and Noah. Even as all the sons of Noah did not enter into the selfsame blessing, similarly with the progeny of Jesus Christ: multitudes bring no fruit to perfection. Yet, eventually, many shall be found in the 100-fold category with another vast number in the 60-fold who remain here on earth in the Kingdom of God while still others will

be in the 30-fold category. These shall be like unto Joseph who labored in Egypt as a blessing unto the Gentile world.

The four gospels came down to us in the Greek language, in which language the name Jesus adds up to 888. Similarly we observe that on board Noah's Ark there were precisely 8 human beings. Eight, which is the number of regeneration, shows us very clearly that only the regenerate ones within the earthly Israel and among the nations of Christendom will ride out that 'great deluge' (the coming Great Tribulation) which sweeps away the unclean.

According to the revelation granted us through John in Patmos, we are given to understand that at the time of the 'great darkness' which is to overshadow the land in the very near future, Lucifer will make a "last ditch effort" to subjugate all of humanity that he may receive their worship. Here, my using the word 'worship' is not necessarily meant that which people think of worshipping God today - going to church, praying and so on. But rather it indicates the knuckling down to that 'man of sin' by obeying his dictates. That becomes the worshipping of Lucifer! Think not for a split moment that the present lot of those who knuckle down to Lucifer is going to be difficult. Much to the contrary: such will have and enjoy the very best which may be available at that time (within Lucifer's dominion). But those who will not knuckle down to Lucifer will face a very difficult time and a great many will suffer execution, while many others will starve to death or perish for lack of warmth. Although that which I am about to state is only my 'belief', yet I feel quite certain there will be multitudes within the Catholic camp who are and will be so brainwashed that they will say "we've got to live!" Therefore and thereby they will end up becoming members of Lucifer's camp believing that their priests will arrange all matters for them through Mary, who, before God, will intercede for them, etc.

Similarly, when looking back to Noah and his sons throughout the flood and immediately after disembarking, we discern that with everything from previous generations swept away in the flood, the house of Noah was similarly under short rations and under conditions which lacked a great deal in the comforts of life. We know by the Word of God that a day can stand for a year and vice versa:

> "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise."
>
> Num. 14:34

So, here we have the 390 years from Noah's flood unto the birth of Isaac recapitulated by the prophet Ezekiel in lying 390 days on his left side.

Then by the Lord's request unto Ezekiel, when the 390 days were expired, he had to follow that up by lying 40 days on his right side for the iniquity of the House of Judah (Ezek. 4:6). Do you not recall that 40 years after the birth of Isaac, he took Rebekah to be his wife (Gen. 25:20)? (Remember: a year for a day and vice versa.) Someone might counter that Ezekiel, who lived many centuries after Isaac, should not be related to that span of time from Noah's flood unto Isaac and to his marriage. From the human perspective that becomes rational, but the ways of the Lord are not the ways of man, neither are the thoughts of man the same as those of the Lord, for God has spoken saying that, "as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:9).

Do you not recall how God instructed Moses, after their deliverance from Egypt, that the Passover which delivered them from Egypt was to be reenacted at the Passover time of the year every year and throughout generations untold (Ex. 12:14)? That selfsame Passover institution looked forward

to Israel's redemption through Jesus Christ, which should also take place on the day of Passover, and that more than 13 centuries after the first Passover instituted in Egypt. Although the leadership in Palestine in the days of our Lord would not receive Him nor even acknowledge Him, yet His identity was declared to the people by John the Baptist when he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world"! Did you ever stop to realize that in the very hour when the Jews were eating their Passover supper in Palestine, the lifeless body of God's Passover Lamb was being entered into the new tomb?

If, then, we draw a link between the 40 years which Isaac waited in order to receive a wife, and the 40 days which the prophet Ezekiel did lie on his right side for the House of Judah, the question becomes: "so, what of it?" In still a future day when 'the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as waters fill the sea' there will be a great deal revealed and understood not only about those 40 years and 40 days, but about a multitude of other past events also.

Twenty long years did Isaac and Rebekah wait for their offspring, and that was only realized after Isaac had prayed for his wife. Correspondingly almost 20 centuries passed until the Son of God came into the world. Adding the 1946 years to the time of Isaac's marriage reaches into 32 A.D. when the Messiah was manifest unto the chosen people! While if we add the 2,000 years as prefigured by the 20 years until Esau and Jacob were born (20 x 10), that would measure into about 86 A.D. when, through the untiring labors of the Apostle Paul, the 7 churches in Asia had been established.

There were two sons born unto Isaac/Rebekah, the first being Esau which has been described as a red and hairy man - symbolic of the most materialistic conditions here on earth and those who thus live. Much hair belongs to the animal kingdom! By such a picture we can readily understand why

God said, "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated" (Rom. 9:13). So, by the foregoing we perceive how Isaac was the "forerunner" of Christ.

Chapter IV

ESAU AND JACOB

We are accustomed to hearing and talking about types instead of "forerunners", yet that "forerunner" word facilitates a broader understanding of God's ways and works. Similarly we see how, figuratively speaking, the Christ also begot two sons in the land of Palestine. Although He had but a few followers, yet 10 days following His Ascension dawned the day of Pentecost on which day thousands accepted Christ the Messiah. Yet all of them combined, together with a great many thousands later on, did not attain to that fullness of fruit which would have led to Israel's acceptance of their Messiah, by the government of the people. Even into this day they live in rejection of their Messiah, being spiritually blind!

Precisely the same repeated in the Gentile camp: two big churches came into being (although the Protestant one was many centuries later). Like unto Esau who sold his birthright for a "mess of pottage", similarly did the Roman Catholic church sell out their spiritual birthright for the things of this world! It has been claimed by some, and it may be considered as true, or largely true, that the Roman Catholic church is the largest by far of all business institutions in the entire world!

Many centuries later, as symbolized by Jacob holding Esau's heel, was born into the world the Protestant churches. Forget not the words of God, "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated" (Rom. 9:13), which today we must understand as referring to the Protestant churches as opposed to the Roman Catholic church. And in the Revelation prophecies

you can read about God's judgment regarding the latter day great Babylon - which bespeaks the Vatican and the entire worldwide set-up by the Roman Catholic church!

This judgment upon the latter day great Babylon was also prefigured by the Scripture account wherein we read that Esau's Mt. Seir was laid waste!

> "Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the Lord of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the Lord hath indignation forever."
>
> Mal. 1:4

Mt. Seir (Edom) symbolized the worldwide kingdom of the Roman Catholic church. When the Protestant Reformation incepted, then the Vatican became enraged. Then did they see their undisputed kingdom crumbling! History shows that they launched unrelenting persecution, thinking that thereby they would "rebuild"! But God had said He would tear down! That eventually led to the decision by the Vatican that they would make official peace with the Protestants, although severe persecution continued throughout the following century in some countries (especially in Spain).

By the foregoing we perceive how Esau and Jacob were also types or "forerunners" of that which should be brought forth by Christ's first advent.

Chapter V

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Now we shall look at another great "forerunner" who, almost 2,000 years ago, came into the then world and at the appointed time became the "voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord". We know him as John the Baptist.

What was the significance of the forecast that the Baptist would turn the hearts of the children to the fathers and the fathers to the children (Mal. 4:6)? In the days of the Baptist, the "children" bespoke the men in that very generation, while the "fathers" referred to their ancient predecessors under the Law. The Law had set forth "landmarks" or, we might say, "waymarks" guiding the people as to how they should live. By the faithful labors of John the Baptist that spiritual objective was, at least to some extent, obtained. And, although we can understand the turning of the "heart of the fathers to their children" as referring to the then families, yet that had a far reaching significance, even into our very day!

We know how it comes natural for our children to desire to have their own ways and they rebel at the authority of the parents. Now, and for some time passed, we have beheld how the world-wide psychology of rebellion at all restraints has become a way of life. The 'fathers' who should guide us in paths of rectitude have yielded so much to the child's psychology that even Sodomy has been legalized with laws that the "gays" must not be discriminated against!

The young generation of today wants absolute freedom! Yet the freedom they want and now practice is anything but the freedom which the Son of

God ushered in through His sacrifice on Calvary's Cross. We must clearly discern between that freedom from sin through Jesus Christ, and that Satanic spirit of liberty which shouts defiance in the face of constituted authority.

This spirit of rebellion is in the footsteps of Lucifer, who was the first rebel leading those in his "union" into rebellious defiance of God! Who can fail to observe Lucifer's footprints throughout the present world society? It is not confined to opposition to established government, but also in established smaller institutions like hospitals, and public services. Neither does it stop there, but has infiltrated Christian communities where rebels in the footprints of Lucifer demand the liberty to do whatsoever they please! Kid not yourselves and delude not those who hear you, that to cooperate with a Christian leader is bondage, while to spit in his face is that freedom which Christ came to inaugurate!! Christ our Lord said that a house divided against itself cannot stand!

You who speak against constituted authority, you who think that cooperation with a leader is bondage, answer me this: what did the Christ mean when He said, "if any man will come after me (to be my disciple), let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me"? Is picking up one's "cross" daily an attitude of "I'll do as I ---- well please"? Even the word "disciple" implies discipline.

What about Ananias and Sapphira who thought that they could do as they very well pleased? Did the Lord lay down a standard or didn't He?? The Lord established a standard: everyone had to "tow the line" or be rejected. Ananias and Sapphira were "forerunners" of the "goats" in present day Christian camps and communities. But the Lord does not force or coerce anyone to become a member of either this or that - no, He doesn't even coerce anyone to accept that redeeming blood which flowed from Calvary's Cross. . . .

The Lord's Kingdom is and will be a Kingdom founded in love and only partaken in by those who love the Christ and love all of His. When the perfection Kingdom is realized (after the Lord has overcome the last enemy which is death) there will be no written constitution, laws nor by-laws, but absolute freedom, for the simple reason that its every member will have arrived at an intensity of love for Christ the Lord. But that day is quite a long way around the corner. We do know, according to the Bible record, about the conditions obtaining when there was no law, when everyone could do whatsoever they pleased, for the record states that

> "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."
>
> Gen. 6:5

And violence was the order of the day!

Has there been any "forerunner" since? Yes, indeed, and very great! I have a surprise for many of you and a shock unto some of you! There have been two very outstanding ones, yes, and even a third, although that you might not accept. That voice "crying in the wilderness" for men to repent was unto the then generation, but its message was also to reach down into our very day! Which statement is underscored by the fact that the Christ ordered His disciples to preach repentance even as the Christ Himself commenced to preach repentance. That was the pre-arranged work for the Baptist, but he encountered two great experiences. After he had finished the work assigned to him, he was thrown into prison, even into a dungeon! And after that experience (we do not know the interval of time), a banquet was prepared by the chief ruler of the country at which very eminent people were the guests. There a damsel, young, lithe and beguiling, swayed seductively to the music. Wine had somewhat numbed the brain of the ruler and

reason took a vacation. The ruler promised unto the young and irresponsible maiden even as much as half the kingdom should she so desire (Mk. 6:23). But she, influenced by her mother, asked for the head of John the Baptist! Limp and lifeless was left the body of the Baptist as the executioner took the head and presented it to the dancing maiden. . . .†

In the full sense of the word, the Baptist was not a "forerunner" of the Christ: he was a preparer of the way for the Christ. But what "forerunner" was he? Of that which we label the "Christian Dispensation"! We speak of this as the Christian era, and that's alright for the simple reason that Christ is preached in thousands and thousands of places and thousands times thousands have been turned from the path of error and darkness unto that of Christ the Lord, Hallelujah! Yet that was the very work of the Baptist! - "to turn the heart of the children to their fathers". And to the scribes and the Pharisees he said:

> "...who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: and think

† This may help to clarify: three forerunners - 1st, John the Baptist, but when his ministry was finished he entered into two experiences which I construe as separate follow-up "forerunners" - namely, his being cast into prison, and then beheaded later. The fulfillment thereof is through the fact that our so-called Christian dispensation has only seen the ministry of John the Baptist, that is, "repent"; while his being thrown into prison has been fulfilled in this generation since WW I by peoples' rebellion at moral codes demanding the liberty to think for themselves and do whatsoever they pleased. And what little restraints and common decency remains will also soon be a thing of the past. As I worded it, "soon the order goes forth: bring the head of the Baptist."

> not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."
>
> Matt. 3:7-9

Ever since the early part of the 4th century A.D., the era of John the Baptist has been operating in the Gentile world! He was the "forerunner" of this! The people who then did hear him, and hear him the most, said of him: "John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man (the Christ) were true" (Jn. 10:41)!

You have just read that "ours is the era of the Baptist", therefore neither have any miracles [such as recorded about the Christ and His apostles] been performed and recorded truthfully down through these 16 centuries even right up into today! Ten thousand lies [and propaganda] to the contrary not withstanding! True, there have been "faith healings" here and there, now and then, [and the granting of special prayer requests through the intervention of God in the daily circumstances of the lives of individuals]. That was promised by the Christ. Yet, the fulfillment of Jesus' words, "greater works than these shall he do" (Jn. 14:12) has not seen fulfillment in this John the Baptist era. Truly, where can it be said that "greater things" than raising the dead, restoring sight to the blind, causing the deaf to hear, etc., have been commonplace down through these centuries since our Lord walked the earth?

It is not being implied, however, that such things which may be termed "miracles" in the lives of God's people are without validity. Surely the Lord grants many wonderful requests unto His people, especially to build faith and trust in His provisioning power. But we look far and wide to find irrefutable evidence to establish the fact that greater miracles than Jesus performed are to be observed today. Yes, we are aware of the great

publicity to the contrary - so you accept or reject the statement as you see fit. But "all things that John spake of this man were true"! Similarly that which our established Christian churches have preached about the Son of God down through these centuries were and are true! But the era of the Baptist now draws towards its close.

As closing his ministry, the Baptist entered into two great experiences, which became shadows or types of things to come. Herein I have labeled them "forerunners", but you translate that to 'types' if you so prefer. The Baptist had somewhat offended the ruler of the land, but more seriously enraged the ruler's wife. As you should know, a wife symbolizes the 'human soul', while in this instance, 'the soul of the ruler". We might say that the key word of the Baptist's ministry was that of "repent!" It is now not so long ago, in fact it became apparent immediately following the First World War, if indeed it did not manifest before the close of that war, that "repent" became an offensive word. "Cast out of our way the old waymarks", "a new age is opening", "we will not be fettered by the old-fashioned ideas"! The soul of a new generation would not hear that word "repent". The great prophet John the Baptist was being thrown into prison, yea, even into a dungeon!

We are shown in the Scriptures that even the Baptist's soul wearied: he began to wonder if there might not be another great person instead of the Christ (whom the Baptist had proclaimed) which should deliver the people from oppression! (Lk. 7: 19 & 20). That very psychology of the Baptist was epitomized in the post-war years of World War II. World War II came and passed into history: the previous social psychology became greatly strengthened and entrenched. No one wanted to hear about 'repentance'. "We are educated, we are informed, we are able to judge as to what is good for ourselves!" Then came into being, and into some popularity, "Who wants to be sensible, when it is more fun to be C-R-A-Z-Y?!" The lithesome damsel had

commenced to sway to the music, wine numbed the human brain. It is only a matter of prophetic moments until the order becomes spoken: "Go, bring the head of John the Baptist!" ["We shall no longer tolerate that repentance word!"]

Those two experiences of the Baptist were the "forerunners" shadowing the last 7 decades of this era. The ministry of the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of God. That was in Palestine. Then commenced the ministry of Christ the Lord unto the chosen people, which lasted into 70 A.D. Then had Asia Minor heard and received the Word. His 7 churches had been established in Asia Minor and allotted the golden candelabra! But much over 2 centuries elapsed before the then mistress of the world legalized the Christian sect, although persecution continued sporadically in various places. Yet that Christian faith had been so watered down, yea, even emasculated to the extent that a pagan government and a carnally minded people could receive it!

Now, observe these words very, very carefully: then opened and commenced the "John the Baptist" ministry unto the Gentiles! This era of 16 to 17 centuries in the Gentile world which we think of and speak of as the Dispensation of the Christian Era, or more correctly, the Dispensation of Grace (which has continued into this very day), has only been "the Baptist's" ministry of repentance - 'turning the heart of the fathers to the children, and that of the children to the fathers, making straight the way for the Lord, lest He come and smite the earth with a curse!'

As up to this very day, the nations of Christendom have not known the Christ!! That fact, shocking though it may be to some of you, is clearly established in John's gospel, chapter 14, verse 12! During these 16 to 17 centuries, the power of divinity which Christ wielded, and to a considerable extent by the Disciples, has not been evidenced anywhere, 10,000 lies to the contrary notwithstanding!! "Repent, repent and believe the gospel"

has been given voice from multiplied thousands of pulpits down into our very day: that has been right and proper. Yet that has only been the voice of the "forerunner" preparing the way for the Christ who shall soon appear. But until the true gospel as preached by Jesus Christ even in its fullness once more, commences to be preached and that in power and with mighty signs following; I repeat, until that day of Pentecost dawns, we have only known the ministry of John the Baptist! Then shall follow about 3½ years during which the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ shall be preached to every creature on earth, and that with tremendous power - Hallelujah! When I say the gospel of Jesus Christ" - I mean in its fullness!

To better illustrate what I mean, let us just suppose that someone established a school announcing that they were taking in students to learn Spanish bullfighting. Yet during the course, which lasted from 16 to 17 days, the students were only talked, talked and talked to and also taken for a number of short sprints to develope their musculature - but never, never, never did they see as much as one bull or even that particular type of sword by which the bull is downed! As recorded by the ministry of the Son of God, He did preach a sermon, He spoke many parables, but nearly all of His time was spent DOING things - manifesting the Kingdom of God on earth then and there! That has not been witnessed during these 17 scant centuries. I find no fault by people going to church to listen to some groanings, neither do I find fault in people going to some different church, not yet to some still different church where the flesh makes 'pandemonium'. In the days of our Lord, He spoke at times of a number of different practices which were not according to His teachings, nevertheless, He added "they have their reward"!

This have I told you and it bears repeating time and again: when our Wondrous Lord has blown the trumpet blast on <u>that</u> day of Rosh Hashanah, then is the 'harvest' of the Lord reaped

by the Lord and this wondrous day of grace fully closed!

Then, in process of time when presumably the temple has been finished, opened, dedicated and sanctified by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, then opens the Kingdom era of the Christ. Then also incepts and will be announced the Law unto Life, even the Law unto Life Eternal!! Immortality here, immortality now! If you, dear reader, believe that the patience of Jesus Christ shall perpetuate the Era of Grace indefinitely - you think again! If you think that the era of 'law' is a thing of the past, you guess again! If you, dear reader, think that this M.D. is just 'blasting off' and that without understanding, you guess again! But if you cannot shake the delusion of grace unending, then carefully read the Revelation of John the Divine. Towards its close, you will find these words and a great deal more fitting into the same category: "he which is filthy, let him be filthy still" (Rev. 22:11)!

The patience and grace of our Lord has continued throughout almost two millenniums, during which the filthy, the unclean and all steeped in sin have had an abundant opportunity to get their robes washed in the blood of the Lamb! If that were to continue indefinitely, then the Spirit could not have said "he which is filthy, let him be filthy still". Therefore, at that time 'law' has replaced the era of grace. Neither in defiance of the truth should you begin to 'parrot' to yourself that the Revelator "saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach", for, that "everlasting gospel" is and will be the glad tidings unto everlasting life, right here and now. That is commonly referred to as immortality in human flesh here and now! Grace, as we have known it, is soon to terminate, and don't you ever forget it!

Rejoice, and doubly rejoice, you of sorrowing heart, for the day of Second Pentecost is not in the distant future, but very close to hand. When

that day dawns and commences to pass into history, then shall many a cancer ridden body be instantly normalized. There shall also be many lost or missing limbs instantly restored! The Wondrous Son of God promised us, and His Word is faithful and true, because He had completed the atonement. He was permitted to go back to the Father and, because of the completed atonement, the Father is prepared to open the valves, as we speak, to the end that we should see performed (by those whom He has chosen for that work), works far greater than the Lord Jesus Christ was permitted to do while He was on earth. Yet, that will not take place until the unceasing voice of supplication by the 7 churches has continued throughout 8 weeks. Then comes the answer from on high, roaring with power! Then would the Christ command power to surge forth from His own being (He being the channel for that unto the earth) in such volume and intensity that those who receive it shall scarcely be able to remain in the body, nay, scarcely on the earth itself! Then, no longer will the 'parrots' be heard, while those who may cry will quickly be silenced. Then shall the 'glad tidings' go forth in power as a counteractive force to the great evil which has been greatly increasing. Lucifer will then have been cast down to the earth and is to go about like a "roaring lion, ...seeking whom he may devour"! Words crisp and crackling shall circle the earth: words emanating such power that the very ground shall tremble under the feet of many that speak. (I personally was given a foretaste of that many decades ago.) Also, many in the power of Lucifer who strive to invade the work of the Christ will be slain by His sword.

We have viewed types and "forerunners" dating back about 6,000 years and operative into our very day. But has our Wondrous Lord left us without a "forerunner" for the impending age? Jesus Christ of Nazareth was the true "forerunner" of the Kingdom Era which is, in reality, the true and full Christian Dispensation, because that era will be

under the supervision and direction of the Christ Himself. We, as yet, have only seen the era of "the Baptist". The way for the Kingdom Era has been under preparation and was the work of the Baptist!

Chapter VI

CONCLUSION

There were about 1954 years from the birth of Isaac unto the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. If we were to add the same era of time to the moment when the Lord inaugurated His ministry, that would reach into the first half of the present decade. Yet the Lord is not bound by such eras of time. However, it should add to our attentiveness to world developments that in these days we may be encouraged, yes, even prodded to draw closer to Christ our Lord and soon coming King.

Isaac was a type or "forerunner" of Jesus Christ. He was chosen by God Almighty to be just that! I wonder how many of my readers are aware that Isaac was 'stone blind' during the last 50 years or more of His life? Brainwashed are so many by 'pulpit parrotry' that the ways of the Lord they have never discerned. Isaac was that true type and "forerunner" of the Christ, nevertheless, shortly before Israel's Messiah was destined to manifest, came John the Baptist to warn the people and eventually to actually pinpoint "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world"!

Has God changed His mind? We have no authentic record as to how long previous to the Christ manifesting that John the Baptist commenced his ministry. It could have been 6 months, or a little less. It might even have been a lot more, we do not know. But we do know that John the Baptist was born an approximate 31 years previous to the Lord commencing His ministry. It could even have been a little longer than that. We can only spec-

ulate as to that short period of time that John the Baptist was warning the people that 'one mightier than himself' was to appear.

Therefore, it seems reasonable to suppose that unless the Lord has changed His mind, then He would prepare someone on earth more or less in the footprints of John the Baptist, who we are told was in the wilderness until the Word of the Lord came unto him - which "wilderness" in our days is isolation. Secondly, we must deduce that if such a "forerunner" in the footprints of the Baptist has indeed been in our midst, then of necessity would he have been setting forth truths and pinpointing the way to the restoration of all things which shall, after the 2nd Pentecost has come and passed into history, be declared in power with mighty signs following! If such a one has been in our midst, then have those not too 'brainwashed' by 'pulpit parrotry' gladly heard him, and have lived in expectancy even as that situation obtained in Palestine throughout 3 decades before the Christ manifested publicly. We might also anticipate that sometime in perhaps the near future, the re-emergence of Christ's hand will be clearly foretold and the time pinpointed, as well as the nature thereof. That did the Baptist.

Did you ever stop to reflect on the inferences we must draw from these words of the Baptist?

> "I indeed baptize you in water unto repentance, but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire."
>
> Matt. 3:11

Did that greatest of prophets, as the Lord labeled him, make erroneous statements? We are well convinced that the Baptist did baptize in water unto repentance, and, according to the record, cloven tongues of fire appeared and settled upon the heads of the 120 in that upper room.

Such probably repeated in the house of Cornelius. That was the baptism by fire, the fire from God on High! But among the Christian nations in our Gentile world, when and where has that repeated? The words of the Baptist were true. Nothing but water baptism unto repentance has been experienced down through these scant 17 centuries.

Did you ever stop to reflect on the fact that Jesus the Christ never baptized as much as one person in water? Sure, His disciples baptized, but not the Lord. The Lord fulfilled the true words of the Baptist, who foretold that the Lord would only baptize with fire!

While our Lord was in the flesh, He said:

> "...the night cometh when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
>
> Jn. 9:4 & 5

To the correctness of my statement, attests the lifeless body of our Lord and Savior. Upon the Cross near 3:00 pm He commended His Spirit into the Hands of the Father and yielded up the last breath. Near sunrise a day and a half later, which would have approximated 6 o'clock in the morning, He vivified and transformed that lifeless body into a glorified body, which only moments thereafter first appeared to Mary Magdalene. My point is this: the Savior's body was limp and lifeless: it could do nothing! Yet was in perfect prophetic harmony with His words while alive that night would set in during which no one could work.

Having vivified and glorified that lifeless body, even that perfection body of the Son of God, He first appeared unto Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb. That Mary was the symbol, type or "forerunner" of the Firstfruits because out of her it is recorded that the Lord had "cast seven devils". We need not wonder if the number of demons was 5, 7 or 18: 7 is that number of completeness, and the number of rest. The "completeness" phase is shown us by the 144,000: 144 being 12 squared

which, as I have told you, is the earth's manifest of its basic number, namely in this instance, 12. While in the number of 144,000 the 3 last numbers are zeros, showing rest in the placements for body, soul and spirit! Not merely rest, as we humans understand it and as we experience, but absoluteness of rest which comes about through union, or more correctly, attunement with the mind of Jesus Christ. Now as the era of the Baptist will soon draw to a close, the Lord will first manifest by calling out the 144,000 as typified by Mary Magdalene: they will constitute the fullness of the body of Jesus Christ - He being the Head. The head directs, the body does all the work. . . .

The countless millions which will be raptured about 3½ years later will not constitute His "body", but only the 'virgins which follow her' becoming the Lord's household. But when dawns the day of 2nd Pentecost, or the 1st Pentecost unto the Gentiles, then shall fire once more fill many a room where the devout are gathered - Hallelujah!

MIKKEL DAHL
September 11, 1982